



THEY
TOLD ME I
JUST NEED
TO GET
SOME BED-
REST.

A black and white manga panel showing a hospital room. A young woman with long hair is sitting up in a hospital bed, looking towards a group of people standing by the foot of the bed. The room has medical equipment on the wall and a window showing a cityscape.

I'LL
BE ABLE
TO LEAVE
IN ABOUT
TEN DAYS.

RIKA-
CHAN, I WAS
SURPRISED TO
HEAR YOU'RE
IN THE
HOSPITAL..

ARE YOU
REALLY SURE
YOU'RE OKAY?
OKAY?

HAUU...



SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO
CALL IN AN
EMERGENCY
MEETING OF
THE CLUB...

A close-up of a young woman with short, light-colored hair, looking surprised or concerned with her mouth slightly open.



SO,
WHAT DID
YOU WANT TO
DISCUSS?

A close-up of a young man with dark hair, wearing a suit and tie, looking towards the woman with a slight smile.

I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT THE
FIRST TIME
WE'RE
SEEING
YOU IN
SO LONG
IS IN A
HOSPITAL
OF ALL
PLACES.

BUT
I'M RELIEVED
TO HEAR YOU'RE
DOING ALL
RIGHT, RIKA-
CHAN.



ACTUALLY...

A dark, circular shape with a bright light source in the center, creating a lens flare effect.





IT
MAY SOUND
ABSURD, BUT
I'D REALLY
LIKE YOUR
HELP...

I'VE
BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT AN
IDEA FOR A
NOVEL...

CHAPTER 2



ORIGINAL WORK: RYUKISHI07
MANGA: KEI NATSUMI



AN
IDEA
FOR A
NOVEL...?

THAT'S...

YEAH,
I STILL
REMEMBER
IT...

BACK
THEN, I WAS
TAKEN ABACK AT
FIRST BY HOW
HUGE IT SOUNDED,
WASN'T I...?



RIKA-
CHAN... YOU
CALLED US
TOGETHER FOR A
MEETING FOR THE
SAME THING A
REALLY LONG
TIME AGO, TOO.

EVEN IF
THERE ARE
THINGS YOU CAN'T
DO ON YOUR
OWN, WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH
THEM WITH
EVERYONE
TOGETHER...



LET'S
GO, WIN
THIS!!

WE'LL
CALL IT
THE 48
HOUR
PLAN!

FOR A
SECOND
THERE,
YOU REALLY
HAD ME
TAKEN
ABACK
BY HOW
HUGE
THIS
SOUNDS.

HEY EVERYONE,
DEEP IN
YOUR HEART,
DOESN'T THIS
SOUND
INTERESTING?

BACK
THEN, WE
WERE JUST
KIDS...



CAN
YOU ALL
STILL
LISTEN
TO MY
NONSENSE
WITHOUT
LAUGHING
AT ME?

BUT
NOW, AS
ADULTS,



YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO BE SO ROUND-
ABOUT AND
PASS IT OFF AS
AN IDEA FOR
A NOVEL...

COME
ON, RIKA-
CHAN...



THE
WHOLE
REASON
YOU CALLED
US HERE IS
BECAUSE
YOU TRUST
US AND CAN
RELY ON US,
RIGHT?

DON'T
EVER UNDER-
ESTIMATE
THE MIGHTY,
INVINCIBLE
CLUB MEMBERS,
ALL RIGHT?



...YOU
CAN ALWAYS
RELY ON
YOUR
FRIENDS.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW OLD
WE ARE...



I AM
YOUR
DEAREST
FRIEND,
NO,
RIKA?

NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO SAY,
OF COURSE
I SHALL
BELIEVE
IT.



...THANKS...

EVERY-
ONE...



...WILL GO
MISSING...?

AND
I...

I'M
GOING TO
BE KILLED ON
THE NIGHT
OF WATANA-
GASHI?



NEXT
TIME, KISAKU'S
ASSISTANT DIED,
AND HE
HIMSELF WENT
MISSING.

AND
THEN, WHEN
I WARNED YOU
TO SAVE YOU
BOTH FROM
THAT
TRAGEDY,

THAT'S
RIGHT.



UNFORGIV-
ABLE...

IMITATING
THE CURSE
OF OYA-
SHIRO-
SAMA...



KISAKU-
SAN...?!



SO,
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

WHO
COULD
IT BE...?

A CULPRIT
WHO WOULD
HAVE THE
CURSE TARGET
KEIICHI AND
MION, OR
KISAKU AND
HIS ASSISTANT...



POLARIS
DOES
SEEM SUS-
PICIOUS...

WELL...



WHILE
I DO NOT
KNOW WHAT
THEY ARE
THINKING, WHAT
IS CERTAIN IS
THAT THEY ARE
AN EERIE
BUNCH.

IF THE
RUMORS
SPREADING AROUND
THE VILLAGE ARE
TRUE, I THINK
THEY'D BE CAPABLE
OF DOING IT.

YOU'RE
WELL
INFORMED,
SATOKO...

YOU
TEND TO
HEAR A LOT
OF THINGS
BEING IN THE
SERVICE
INDUSTRY.

PLUS...
THEY'VE
FACED
ACUSATIONS
THAT THEIR
MEANS OF
RECRUITING NEW
BELIEVERS IS
PRACTICALLY
KIDNAPPING...

WITH
THAT IN
MIND, I
WOULDN'T
PUT IT PAST
THEM TO
COMMIT
MURDER.

AND THEY
SUPPOSEDLY
BRAIN-
WASH THEIR
FOLLOWERS
TO GET MONEY
OUT OF
THEM...

I EVEN
HEARD
THAT THEY
BRUTALLY
MURDERED A
FAMILY THAT
WAS MAKING
TROUBLE FOR
THEM, THEN
BURNED THE
PLACE DOWN
ALONG WITH
THEMSELVES.

まとめ
ホラリス家族の会の
黒い噂に迫る
2019年〇月×日
=====

聖母は稀代の誘拐犯！
https://www.zxcybnn/



2019年〇月〇
について横
みた結果！
閲覧数 194

THE
VILLAGE IS
RIFE WITH
RUMORS
LIKE THAT.

IN FACT,
IT SEEMS
THERE ARE
FREQUENT
INCIDENTS OF
MALICIOUS
HARASSMENT.

AND
PLACES
HAVE
BEEN
TAGGED
WITH
CREEPY
GRAFFITI.

LOTS OF
GARBAGE IS
BEING HURLED
AT PEOPLE'S
GARDENS
AND THEIR
WALLS

THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
ASSOCIATION
HAS BEEN
RECEIVING
COMPLAINTS
ABOUT THE
DAMAGE EVERY
SINGLE DAY...



BUT THERE'S NO TELLING IF THAT'S TRUE, IT COULD'VE EVEN BEEN SOMETHING THEY STAGED THEMSELVES.

ON THE CONTRARY, POLARIS THEMSELVES CLAIMED THEY WERE FACING HARASSMENT FROM HINAMIZAWA...

BUT THEY PERSISTENTLY DENIED HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

MY HUSBAND AND FATHER-IN-LAW HAVE BEEN GRILLING THE POLARIS REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT IT.



I FEEL SORRY FOR PUTTING THIS ALL ON KEITAROU...

THE SITUATION IS GRAVER THAN I ASSUMED...

THIS IS GETTING QUITE COMPLICATED...



I DON'T THINK POLARIS WOULD EVER CAUSE AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE...



IF ANY SORT OF INCIDENT HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA RIGHT NOW, I THINK EVERYONE WOULD BLAME POLARIS...

...AND THEN THEY'D PRESSURE THEM TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

THAT'S HOW MUCH ANTI-POLARIS SENTIMENT HAS SPREAD AMONGST THE VILLAGERS.



KEITAROU
REALIZED THE
SAME THING IN
THE FIRST LOOP.

...RI-
GHT,



COMMITTING
MURDER WHEN
YOU'RE CLEARLY
GOING TO BE THE
PRIME SUSPECT
IS OBVIOUSLY
A BAD MOVE.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
THAT'S WHAT
WORRIES
ME...



MION
AND I MET
THE HOLY
MOTHER
DURING AN
INDUCTION
MEETING.

IT SEEMS
LIKE PEOPLE
HOLD PRE-
CONCEIVED
NOTIONS
TOWARDS
POLARIS.



MION,

YOU
LOOKED
INTO POLARIS
BEFORE THEY
MOVED IN,
DIDN'T
YOU?

...

I SUP-
POSE.



AHH...
COME ON
OLD MAN
SHOU-
TAROU,
SERIOUS-
LY...

SLAM

They're
a cutt!

They ain't
got no
respect!

RIGHT?
MY FATHER-
IN-LAW WOULD
START TO GRIPE
WHENEVER
THAT TOPIC
AROSE.

FIRST
OF
ALL...

THEY
PAY
TAXES.

THEY'RE A
LEGITIMATE
PROTECTION
GROUP FOR
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
VICTIMS.

THE
POLARIS FAMILY
SOCIETY IS NOT
CLASSIFIED AS
A RELIGIOUS
GROUP...



HUH?



SO I
CAN'T DENY
THAT IT FEELS
SOMEWHAT
RELIGIOUS.

BUT
THEIR
IDEO-
LOGY IS
SPIRITUAL.

IT'S
TRUE.

BUT
EVERYONE
THINKS IT'S A
RELIGION...

SERIOUS-
LY?!



THEY
CAME FORWARD
AS SETTLERS,
IMMIGRATING
HERE AS PART
OF A PROJECT
TO PREVENT THE
VILLAGE FROM
TURNING INTO
A GHOST
TOWN.

AND NOW,
THEY'VE
WONDERFULLY
REVITALIZED
THE VILLAGE'S
OTHERWISE
ABANDONED
CROP FIELDS.

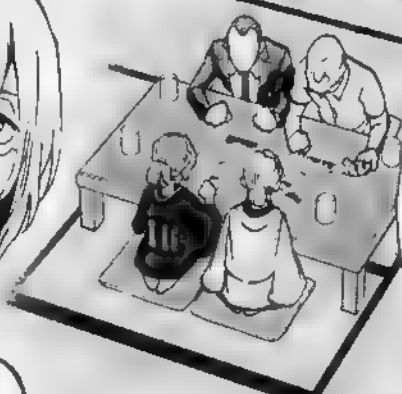
THEY
DEVOUTLY
FOLLOW THEIR
HOLY MOTHER'S
DOCTRINE AND
SUBSIST OFF
THE LAND
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE.

...THAT
MUCH I
ALREADY
KNOW.



SO
SHE PUSHED
FOR IT, SAYING
WE'D TAKE
OF THEM.

ALTHOUGH
THE KIMYOSHI
FAMILY WAS
HARSHLY
OPPOSED,
MY
MOM FELT
SYMPATHETIC
TO THEM.





...SO,

THEIR
LEADER,
THE HOLY
MOTHER,

THE
SONOZAKIS
GOT THE
WHOLE VILLAGE
TO TREAT
THE HOUJOUS
COLDLY IN
THE PAST.

SYM-
PATHETIC?

IS A
VERY CALM,
GENTLE OLD
WOMAN.

AKANE
PROBABLY
FELT THE
NEED TO
ATONE
FOR THAT
SIN...

I
SEE...



THOSE
WERE BEST-
SELLERS A
LONG TIME
AGO.

RENA
READ THEM
TOO, THOSE
WERE GOOD
BOOKS.

BUT SHE
HERSELF
IS A
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
VICTIM.

YOU'VE
HEARD OF HER
BOOKS, RIGHT?
ESCAPING
FROM A LOVED
ONE, OR FREEING
ONESELF FROM
TOXIC
BONDS.



THE
GROUP'S
OPERATING COSTS
ARE FUNDED BY THE
HEFTY ROYALTIES
HER BOOKS ARE
STILL BRINGING
IN...

HER
BOOKS WERE
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL,
AND IT WAS
BECAUSE OF THEM
THAT PEOPLE
GATHERED
TOGETHER AND
FORMED A
SUPPORT
GROUP...



IT'S
EXTREMELY
CLEAN...

DON'T
SEEM LIKE
THERE'S
ANYTHING
UNNATURAL
ABOUT
THE MONEY
THEY'RE
PULLING
IN.

AND
ON TOP OF
THAT, THEY
APPARENTLY
RECEIVE
CONSIDERABLE
DONATIONS FROM
INDIVIDUALS WHO
WERE RESCUED
BY POLARIS.



THE
PEOPLE
WHO DO THESE
THINGS ALWAYS
ACT LIKE
THEY'RE THE
VICTIM.

SEEMS
POSSIBLE.

IS
THERE A
CHANCE THE
COMPLAINTS
AGAINST THEM
ARE FROM THE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PERPETRATORS
TRYING TO
CRITICIZE
THEM?

IN
WHICH
CASE...



THE
POLICE
CONCLUDED
IT WASN'T
ORGANISED
BY POLARIS.

IT
APPEARED
SUSPICIOUS
THAT THEY LEFT
JUST BEFORE
THE DAY OF
THE CRIME,
BUT...

IT
SEEMS THE
ARSON INCIDENT
WAS ALSO
COMMITTED BY
SOMEONE
WHO'D LEFT THE
ORGANIZATION.



NATURALLY,
THE HOLY
MOTHER WAS
PRETTY TIGHT-
LIPPED ABOUT
THAT ONE.

BUT
SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT
RINGS A
BELL...



THEN,
WHAT ABOUT
THE ACCUSATIONS
OF THEM HARASSING
THEIR NEIGHBORS?



WHEN
YOUR
ORGANIZATION
GETS BIG
ENOUGH,
SOME PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO
MAKE TROUBLE.



SO,
MOM
SAID..



...THE
STRESS IS
IMMEASUR-
ABLE...

IF
YOU'VE
GOT DOZENS
OF PEOPLE
LIVING
TOGETHER
IN A SMALL
HOUSE...

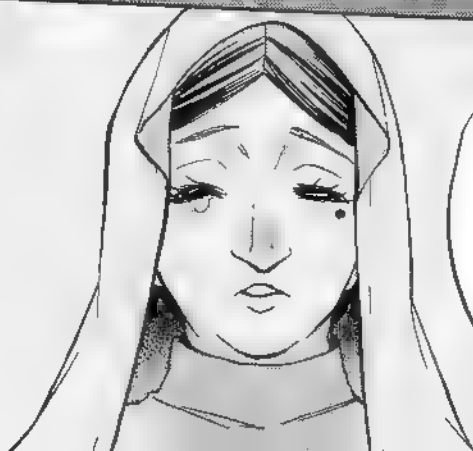


IT'S
THE SAME
FOR ANY
GROUP.

NOT
ENOUGH
TO HAVE
TROUBLE
AMONGST
NEIGHBORS.

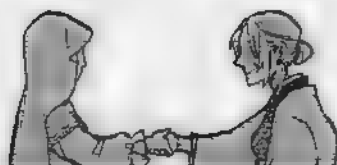
EVEN IF
ALL THE
PEOPLE LIKE
US SCATTERED
ACROSS JAPAN CAME
TOGETHER, IT
WOULD STILL
BE A SMALL
NUMBER.

OUT
HERE IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE,
WE HAVE MORE
LAND, VACANT
HOMES, WATER,
AND AIR THAN
WE KNOW WHAT
TO DO WITH.



IT
WOULD BE
AN AMICABLE
ARRANGEMENT
FOR BOTH
PARTIES,
YES?

IF WE
COULD
JUST
COEXIST
PEACE-
FULLY,



THAT'S
HOW WE
CAME TO
AN AGREE-
MENT.

...AND,

IT'S NOT
THAT POLARIS
AS A WHOLE WAS
HARASSING THEM,
JUST THAT THERE
WAS AN INDIVIDUAL
CAUSING PROBLEMS
WHO HAPPENED TO
BE A POLARIS
MEMBER... THAT'
THE WAY TO
THINK ABOUT
IT...

...I
SEE...



...BUT,
IF THAT'S
THE CASE...

...THAT'S
PROBABLY
A GOOD
WAY OF
THINKING
ABOUT IT.

CONSIDERING
WHAT KEITAROU
HAS TOLD ME,
POLARIS AS AN
ORGANIZATION
SEEMS SQUEAKY
CLEAN.

BUT IT'S
POSSIBLE FOR
INDIVIDUALS
TO GO OUT
OF CONTROL,
COMPLETELY
UNRELATED
TO THEIR
ORGANIZATION.

INDEED... WHEN
TROUBLE DOES
HAPPEN, IT'S
EASY FOR PEOPLE
TO SEE THE
ORGANIZATION THE
PERPETRATOR
BELONGS TO
AS THE SOURCE
OF THE PROBLEM.



...WHO ELSE
COULD POSSIBLY
BE BEHIND
THE CURSE...?

THEN...



WELL,
ANYWAY...

AH
HA
HA

MION-SAN,
SHOULDN'T YOU
BE REFERRING
TO YOURSELF AS
THIS OL' LADY
AT THIS
POINT?



THERE'S
SOMETHING
THIS OL'
MAN HAS
BEEN
CONCERNED
ABOUT...

THAT'S
THE
THING,
THOUGH.



ACTUALLY,

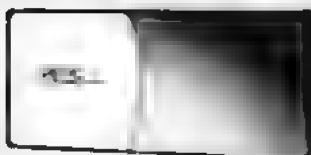
I AGREED
TO HAVE A
SECRET MEETING
WITH THE NEXT
HEAD OF THE
KIMIYOSHIS...
KISAKU-SAN...

ON
THE NIGHT
OF WATANA-
GASHI THIS
YEAR,



HUH?

AND
I WAS
INVITED
THERE
TOO...



THE
CONDITIONS
OF THIS SECRET
MEETING ARE
SOMETIMES
IMPORTANT TO
DISCUSS BUT
THAT'S ALL I'VE
HEARD...

TO
PLAY ALONG
AND KEEP IN
TOUCH WITH
THEM, TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT'S
ACTUALLY
GOING ON
WITH THE
KIMIYOSHIS.

AND
GIVE ME
SECRET
ORDERS...



IF
KEI-CHAN
AND I GO
TO THAT
MEETING, WE
WILL BE
KILLED...

...AND
IF YOU
WARN US AND
PREVENT US
FROM GOING,
KISAKU-SAN
AND HIS AIDE
WILL BE KILLED
INSTEAD... THAT
WHAT YOU'RE
THINKING,
ISN'T IT?



BUT...

IT
MAKES
SENSE,
TO AN
EXTENT...

IS
THAT
WHAT
THIS IS?



THE
PEOPLE
ATTENDING
THIS SECRET
MEETING ARE
BEING ATTACKED
AND MADE
SACRIFICES
FOR THE
CURSE...

I
SEE,

ACTUAL-
LY,
MON...

I
WAS THE
ONE WHO GOT
KILLED...

IN THE
CASE WHERE
I WARNED YOU,
KEIICHI, KISAKU,
AND HIS AIDE...


I THINK
WE'VE NEARLY
NARROWED
DOWN THE
CULPRIT.

...THEN,

YOU,
RIKA-
CHAN!?!


RENA?





I'M SURE
THAT MEETING
WAS A FARCE
TO DRAW OUT
VICTIMS FOR
THE CURSE.

SO THE
CULPRIT IS
ONE OF THE
FOUR POTENTIAL
VICTIMS...



I DON'T THINK
KEIICHI-KUN OR
MI-CHAN WOULD
EVER KILL RIKA-
CHAN...

BUT,

THAT
WOULD BE
ENOUGH TO
COMPLETE
THE CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA.

IF ONE
OF THEM
KILLED THE
OTHER AND
THEN RAN
AWAY,



SATOKO-
CHAN'S
HUSBAND, AND
HIS ASSISTANT.

SO OUR
SUSPICION
SHOULD
BE ON THE
REMAINING
TWO...



IS BECAUSE
YOU GAVE THEM
THAT WARNING,
WHICH MADE
THEM THINK
OUR MURDER
PLANS HAVE
LEAKED.

I
WONDER IF
THE REASON
THEY KILLED
YOU, RIKA-
CHAN,



IMPRESSIVE
AS ALWAYS,
DETECTIVE
RENA...!

THAT, PLUS
THE INTEL
EVERYONE
ELSE HAS
BROUGHT HAS
REALLY OPENED
MY EYES...!

THAT'S
NOT TO
SAY THERE
AREN'T
OTHER
POSSIBILITIES,
THOUGH...

AH...!!

I NEVER
WOULD
HAVE
COME UP
WITH THAT
ON MY
OWN...!


THAT'S
AMAZING,
RENA.



I'd expect
no less of
Rena...

Why do
you look
so proud,
Ker-chan?

I KNEW
I COULD
RELY ON MY
FRIENDS...!



IT
PAINS
ME TO
SUSPECT
YOUR
HUSBAND,
BUT...

I...

I'M
SORRY,
SATOKO-
CHAN...

KISAKU-
SAN AND
HIS AIDE ARE
PROBABLY THE
CULPRITS...

I'M
CLOSER TO MY
HUSBAND THAN
ANYONE...

IT'S
ACTUALLY
ADVAN-
TAGEOUS
IF I CAN BE
THE ONE TO
LOOK INTO
THIS...

IT'S
NOT HARD
TO THINK
EXTREMISTS
USING THE NAME
OF THE CURSE
TO ELIMINATE
THE PEOPLE IN
THEIR WAY WOULD
WANT TO
SACRIFICE POLARIS
SYMPATHIZERS.

PLEASE
DO NOT
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

THERE
LIKELY ARE
PEOPLE IN THE
VILLAGE WHO
THIRST FOR THE
CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-SAMA
TO HAPPEN
A SECOND
YEAR.



WHAT IS IT?

...BY THE WAY, GETTING BACK ON TOPIC FOR A SEC...



THANKS, SATOKO...

AND YOU CAN LEAVE HIS ASSISTANT TO ME, TOO.



ACCORDING TO KEITAROU IN THE SECOND LOOP,



...ABSURD.

NO WAY, THAT IS...



POLARIS IS SUPPOSEDLY BEING VICIOUSLY HARASSED BY HINAMIZAWA, AS WELL...



I HEAR THERE ARE FREQUENT CASES OF HARASSMENT AGAINST THE VILLAGE...

AND THE OTHER WAY AROUND TOO, THAT THE VILLAGE IS HARASSING POLARIS. IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THAT?



SO
THEY'VE GIVEN
THEIR PEOPLE
STERN ORDERS
NOT TO CAUSE
ANY DISPUTES
WITH POLARIS
THAT MIGHT LEAD
TO TROUBLE IN THE
TOWN COUNCIL
ELECTIONS...

TO
THE KIMIYOSHI
FAMILY, THEIR
ROLE AS
MAYOR IS A
COMPLETELY
NON-
NEGOTIABLE
TRADITION.



IF WE
FOOLISHLY
UPSET THEM AND
THEY TRY TO USURP
THE TOWN COUNCIL,
IT COULD BE
A SERIOUS
PROBLEM.

THE
VILLAGE HAS
BEEN GIVEN VERY
STRICT ORDERS,
DO NOT PROVOKE
POLARIS.



ANY
PEOPLE WE
SHOULD BE
CONCERNED
ABOUT?

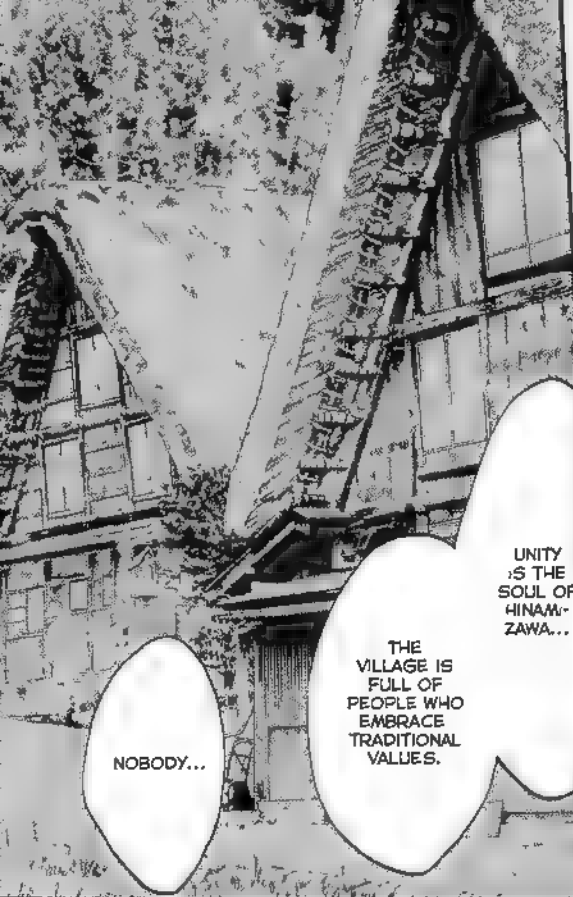
COULD
IT BE SOMEONE
IN THE VILLAGE
BESIDES THE
KIMIYOSHIS
AND SONOZAKIS,
MEDDLING OF
THEIR OWN
ACCORD?

THEN,



AND
NOT JUST
IN HINAMI-
ZAWA,
BUT OUR
RELATIVES
IN OKINOMIYA
HAVE BEEN
GIVEN THE
SAME
ORDERS.

IT'S
THE SAME
WITH THE
SONOZAKI
FAMILY.



NOBODY...

THE
VILLAGE IS
FULL OF
PEOPLE WHO
EMBRACE
TRADITIONAL
VALUES.

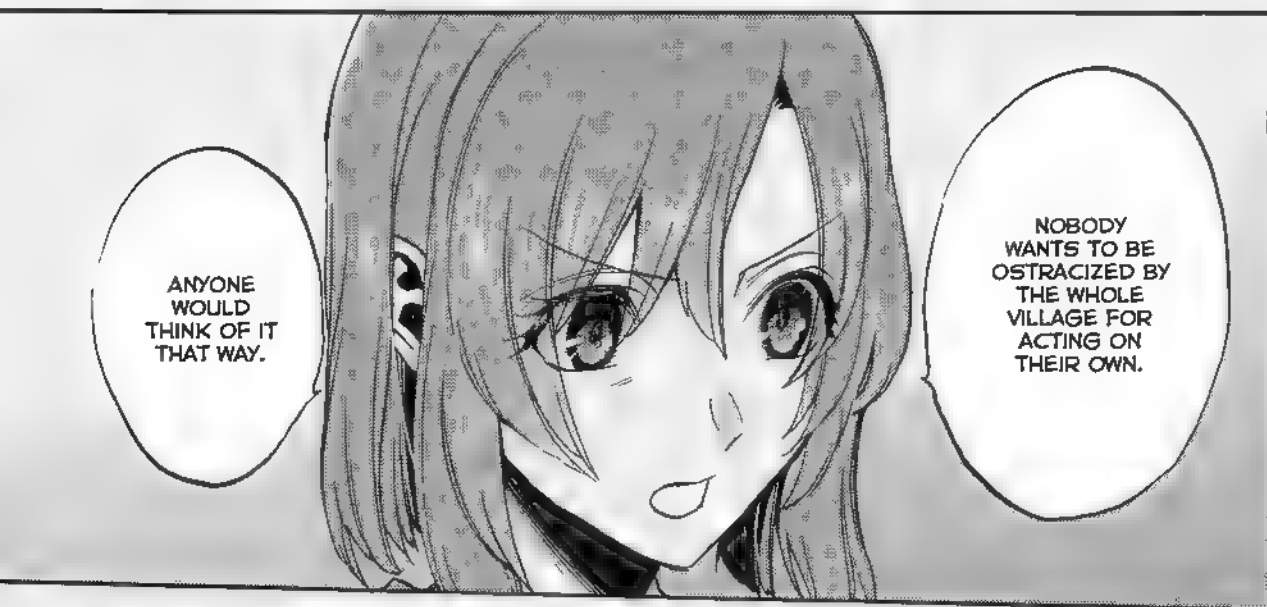
UNITY
IS THE
SOUL OF
HINAM-
ZAWA...



...DISOBEY
THEM AND
ACT ON
THEIR
OWN...

I
THINK
THAT
SORT OF
TROUBLE
WOULD
BE LED
BY THE
THREE
FAMILIES.

IT'S
HARD TO
BELIEVE THE
PEOPLE OF
THIS VILLAGE
WOULD...



ANYONE
WOULD
THINK OF IT
THAT WAY.


NOBODY
WANTS TO BE
OSTRACIZED BY
THE WHOLE
VILLAGE FOR
ACTING ON
THEIR OWN.



...IN
WHICH
CASE...

IRONICALLY,
THE VILLAGE'S
DARK SIDE IS
EFFECTIVELY
DETERRING
THEM FROM
RUNNING AMOK.

I
THOUGHT
SO TOO.



RENA
WILL DO
A BIT OF
PERSONAL
RESEARCH,
TOO.



THERE'S
A LITTLE
SOMETHING
I'VE GOT
IN MIND.

I'M
ACQUAINTED
WITH THE
HOLY MOTHER,
SO I'LL TRY
PAYING
A VISIT.

THEN I'LL
INVESTIGATE
IF THERE
ARE ANY
HARDLINERS
INDIVIDUALS
ON THE
POLARIS
SIDE...



I'LL
DIG
BEHIND THE
SCENES
OF THE
SONO-
ZAKIS.

SATO-
KO, YOU
HANDLE
THE KIMI-
YOSHIS.

THERE
COULD BE
HARDLINERS OR
SOMEONE
INDIVIDUALLY
ACTING
RECKLESSLY
WITHIN THE
THREE FAMILIES.

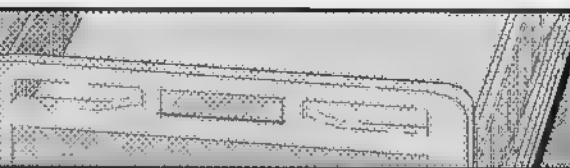
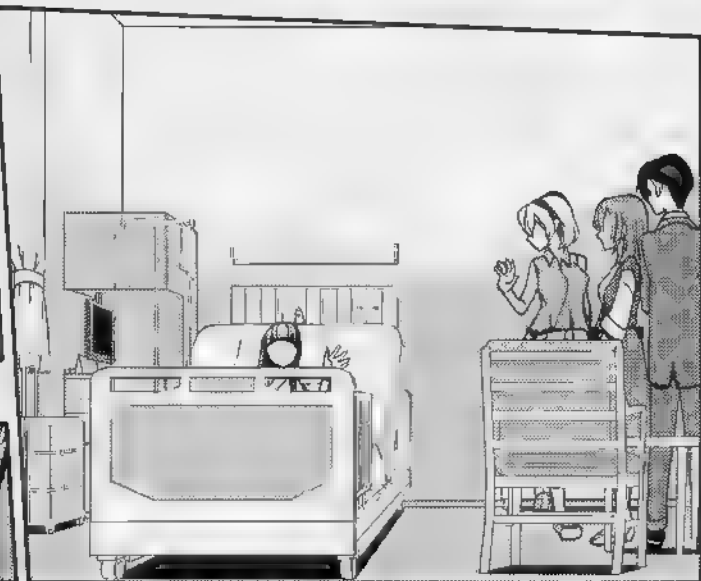
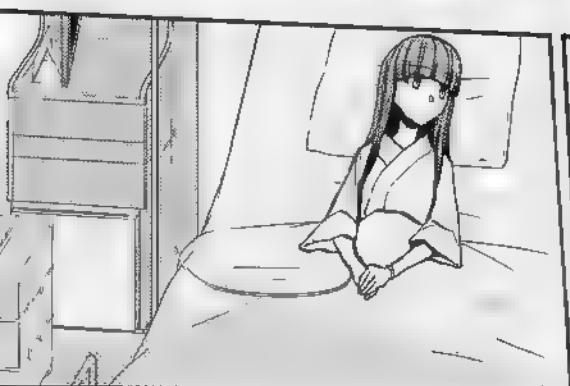
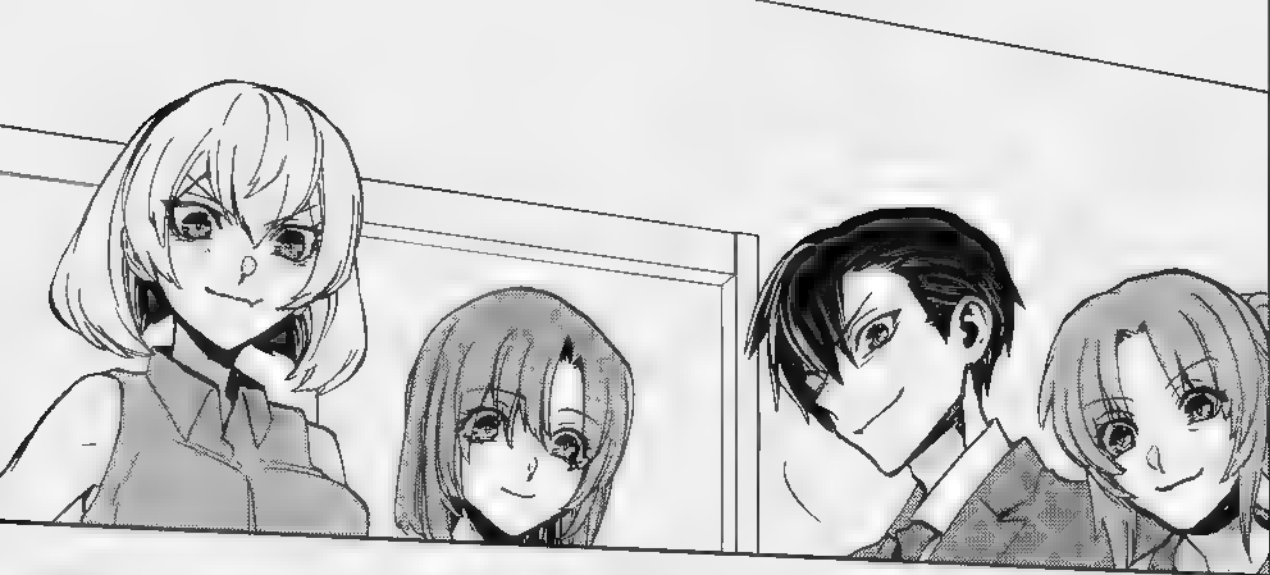


UNDER-
STOOD,
LEAVE IT
TO ME.



PLEASE
DO...

THANKS,
EVERY-
ONE.





THE
WATANA-
GASHI
FESTIVAL
IS TEN
DAYS
OUT.



UNLESS
WE CAN
PREVENT IT,
SOMEONE WILL
DEFINITELY
BE MURDERED
THAT NIGHT.



AND...

...THAT
COULD PAVE
THE WAY FOR
SUBSEQUENT
TRAGEDIES.



AND
YET...



EVEN
THOUGH
I KNOW
ABOUT
UPCOMING
TRAGEDIES...

...THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO
EXCEPT LAY
HERE...



DEALING
WITH OLD
TIMERS IN
CONGRESS
ISN'T SO BAD,
BUT...

IT'S
BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE I HAD
FRIENDS RELYING
ON ME, SO THIS
HAS GOT ME
FIRED UP,
ALL RIGHT?



COME
ON NOW,

RIKA-
CHAN, YOU
JUST STAY
RIGHT THERE
AND BE OUR
ARMCHAIR
DETECTIVE!



IF IT'S
POSSIBLE,
I'D LOVE FOR
US ALL TO GO
TO THE WATANAGASHI
FESTIVAL TOGETHER!
TOGETHER!



THAT'S
RIGHT! YOU
TAKE IT EASY
AND GET SOME
REST, RIKA-
CHAN!



...OR IF
YOU CAN'T
GET OUT OF
THE HOSPITAL
IN TIME FOR
THAT, HOW
ABOUT WE
ALL GATHER
FOR DRINKS
AT MY PLACE
AFTER?

I'LL
BE SURE
TO ORDER
SOME OF THAT
KIMCHI YOU
LOVE SO
MUCH, RIKA-
CHAN!



YOU
DO
EVERY-
THING
YOU
HAVE
TO
DO...

...TO GET
DISCHARGED
FROM THIS
HOSPITAL!



RIKA,

WE
WILL DO
ALL THAT WE
CAN TO WIN
BACK OUR
PEACEFUL
DAYS!



TO PROTECT
MY BELOVED
FRIENDS, AND
THE KIDS'
EVERYDAY LIFE...!

WE
ABSOLUTELY
MUST PREVENT
THIS TRAGEDY!

TEN DAYS...

...UNTIL THE
WATANAGASHI
FESTIVAL.

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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